materials, namely, proprietory formulations, natural and essential synthetic oils, citric acid, gum erabic etc The, level of replenishment at the time of closure of the company in 1977 was 3. 5 per cent. In addition, the company was also getting actual user import licence which varied from year to year.

(b) and (c) An application has been submitted by M/s. Punjab Agro Industries Corporation for the manufacture of various items of processed foods in financial participation with one of the Tata Companies and M/s. Ftpsico Incorporated of USA. No decision has yet been taken on the project and hence it is not possible to give any information regarding the import content.

(d) It is a fact that as per Appen-, disc 17 of the current import policy import of flavouring essences is allowed up to 1 per cent of F. O. B. value of exports against export product group G, 6 namely, "fruit juice, nectars and pulps/concentrates".

Foreign debt

803. SHRI P. N. SUKTJL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what has been India's indebtedness to foreign countries as on (i) October 1, 1966 (ii) October 1, 1976; and (iii) October 1, 1986?

•

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): India's indebtedness to foreign countries/institutions on Government account was as follows: —

(Rs. in Crores)

As on	*Amount*
31-3-1966	3374.10*
1-10-1976	10729.75
1-10-1986 (Provisional)	27432.20

*Monthwise indebtedness figures for 1968 not available. Hence position as on 31-3-1966 has been indicated. The figure does not include loan outstanding under PL—488 Programme.

Talks with Australia on Disarmament

804. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL, AFFAIRS be pleased to slate:

(a) whether there has been an agreed solution and approach to joint disarmament and arms control with Australia and if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether any move has al ready been made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL, AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FAL-EIRO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No proposal for a joint approach to disarmament and arms control has: been discussed with Australia.

Trade Gap

805 SHRI SURAJ PRASAD;
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap in external trade is widening by leaps and bounds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the big houses are not exportin goods according to expectations; am

(c) -what is the contribution in exports by the, various sectors so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The trade deficit registered a decline in. absolute terms from a level of Rs. 5838. 44 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 5801. 64 crores in 1981-82, to Rs. 5489. 37 crores in 1982-83 and to 5318. 10 crores in 1984-85. The years 1983-84 and 1985-86, however, proved exceptions, the former due to port strike in March